

Tuesday, March 18, 2008

Obey RECIEVES UPDATE ON PARKLAND Water PROJECT

Federally Funded Work Intended to Improve Local Sewer System

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SOUTH RANGE, WI - Seventh District Congressman Dave Obey (D-WI) was in South Range today for an update on plans to expand the Town of Parkland Sanitary District Wastewater Collection System. Over the last few years, Obey secured \$1.4 million in federal funds for the Northern Wisconsin Environmental Assistance Program - also known as "Section 154" - to allow the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to work on the project.

"The basic building blocks for community growth, like access to clean water, good roads, and efficient sewers, can cost local taxpayers a lot," said Obey. "That's why we created the Northern Wisconsin Environmental Assistance Program to help promote economic development and ease the squeeze on the pocket of Northwoods taxpayers, and I'm glad to be here today to see first hand how the Corps and the District plan to move forward."

"For what we spend on the war in Iraq, we could completely pay for more than three of these projects every hour," Obey added. "That just goes to show you how much we could be doing here at home if we weren't stuck in this misbegotten war."

The federal funds are intended to allow the design and construction of a wastewater collection and conveyance system to service an unsewered area within the district.

Section 154 - the Northern Wisconsin Environmental Assistance Program - was created by Obey in 2000 to help Ashland, Bayfield, Douglas and Iron counties finance work for repairing, expanding and upgrading water related infrastructure, including wells, sewer systems, dams, and wastewater treatment facilities. Over the last few years, Obey has secured more than \$34 million for projects under this special authority. Projects funded by the program are selected by a special committee composed of representatives from the local counties and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

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